

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

INFORMATION REPORT

CC

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY East Germany

DATE DISTR. 28 September 1954

SUBJECT Object No. 2 of the Wisnurt A.G. at Oberschlenn

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1. Mines located in the Oberschlema - Niederschlema included:

two	mines	No 2
	mine	No 6
	line	No 6 b
	mine	No 4
	mine	No 7
	mine	No 12
	mine	No 15
	mine	No 15 b
	mine	No 8
	mine	No 5
	mine	No 27
	mine	No 63

These mines have levels at a depth of 60 meters, 120 meters, 180 meters, 240 meters, 300 meters, and 360 meters. The main elevator shaft cuts through all the levels. Ore mined during an eight-hour shift totaled approximately 200 mine carloads or about 100 tons.

Mines No 256, 127, and 38 had 5 levels, while mine No 280 had only two levels, the lowest level of the latter mine being at a depth of 180 meters. The output of these four mines was much higher than that of the mines mentioned in paragraph 1. This was due to the fact that the mines were equipped with automatic loading devices and that the elevator shafts were not used for the lifting of any material but ore. The output at each of the mines mentioned was about 50 tons per hour. On the Marcus Semmler level, which is at a depth of 60 meters, narrow-gauge tracks were in use for the hand-pushed mine cars. On levels 1 through 5, mine cars were operated with electric engines. All the mines were interconnected by galleries. Explosives were usually stored on the second level which was the main level. Soviet soldiers assisted by VP men were in charge of the explosives. Explosives arrived at night on Soviet trucks. A major underground dump of explosives was reportedly located at Hartenstein.

3. Major installations connected with ore mining activities included the water works at Glaesberg; a pumping plant near mine No 5, which pumped water from all the mines to the Glaesberg water works where it was purified for use as

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drinking water; factory No 99, the ore washing plant of the Wismut A.G. fitted with new ore scales; a Soviet ore dressing and crushing plant near mine No 4 in the vicinity of the Oberschlema railroad station where high grade uranium ore was packed for delivery to the USSR; the Martin saw mill on the Oberschlema - Hartenstein road, 2 km north of Niederschlema railroad station; and an ore loading plant near Niederschlema railroad station.

4. Ore was hauled from the mines to the ore-dressing plant in Molotov and Zis dump trucks. An estimated 300 dump trucks were employed per shift. The single-track standard gauge track extended from Hartenstein to the vicinity of the Oberschlema railroad station. Trains could operate only at slow speeds because the terrain in the area was liable to cave in where underground cavities formed by mining had not been filled in properly. All material arriving or leaving the restricted ore mining area was handled by rail. The processed ore was trucked to the Niederschlema railroad station where it was loaded into trains and dispatched to the USSR. Crushed ore was shipped in cardboard containers which had the shape of buckets. Waste rock was taken to the mine waste dump on a narrow-gauge field railway.
5. A total of 15,000 Germans worked in each eight-hour shift. Workers came by train and buses from Zwickau, Schorlau, and Loessnitz. A Soviet labor unit of about 500 men was stationed in Oberschlema along with some Soviet engineers and technicians. Most of them had their dependents with them. The members of the Soviet labor unit were employed as ore testers, stock clerks, drivers etc.

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